

## **REMARKS**

### **I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

A minor amendment has been made to the specification. No claims have been amended, added or canceled. Claims 1-27 remain in the application. Claims 6, 7 and 9-27 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

### **II. PRIORITY ISSUE**

Page 3 of the May 24, 2006 Office Action indicated that the present application “appears to disclose and claim **only** subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. 10/234,672.” [Emphasis added.] Applicant’s undersigned representative interpreted this statement to mean that the Examiner had taken the position that applicant could not claim to priority to, for example, application Ser. No. 09/072,872. It now appears that this was a misinterpretation of the above-quoted statement and that the Office Action merely indicated that, with respect to application Serial No. 10/234,762, the present application should be referred to as a “continuation” thereof instead of a “continuation-in-part.” As the appropriate portion of the specification has been amended to indicate that the present application is a “continuation” of application Serial No. 10/234,762, applicant respectfully submits that the priority issue has been obviated.

### **III. CLOSING REMARKS**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

August 19, 2006

Date

/Craig A. Slavin/

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